

### ***Listing of the Claims***

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) A mutant vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) having the mutation  $\Delta$ M51 in the gene encoding the matrix (M) protein.

4. (Previously presented) The mutant VSV according to claim 3, further comprising one or more mutations in the gene encoding the matrix (M) protein selected from the group consisting of  $\Delta$ M51-54,  $\Delta$ M51-57,  $\Delta$ V221-S226, V221X, S226X, or a combination thereof.

5. (Previously presented) The mutant VSV according to claim 3, comprising one or more mutations in the gene encoding the matrix (M) protein selected from the group consisting of:  $\Delta$ M51/V221F;  $\Delta$ M51-54/V221F;  $\Delta$ M51-57/V221F;  $\Delta$ M51/S226R;  $\Delta$ M51-54/S226R, and  $\Delta$ M51-57/S226R.

6. (Previously presented) The mutant VSV according to claim 3, comprising one or more mutations in the gene encoding the matrix (M) protein selected from the group consisting of:  $\Delta$ M51/V221F/S226R;  $\Delta$ M51-54/V221F/S226R and  $\Delta$ M51-57/V221F/ S226R.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) The mutant VSV according to claim 3, wherein said mutant VSV is capable of triggering the production of one or more cytokines in an infected cell.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) The mutant VSV according to claim 3, further comprising a heterologous nucleic acid.

11. (Previously presented) A vaccine vector comprising a mutant VSV having the mutation  $\Delta$ M51 in the matrix (M) protein and a heterologous nucleic acid encoding one or more antigens.

12. (Previously presented) A vaccine adjuvant comprising a mutant VSV having the mutation  $\Delta M51$  in the matrix (M) protein, said mutant VSV being capable of triggering the production of one or more cytokines in an infected cell.

13. (Previously presented) A selective oncolytic agent comprising a mutant VSV having the mutation  $\Delta M51$  in the matrix (M) protein.

14. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a mutant VSV having the mutation  $\Delta M51$  in the matrix (M) protein.

15. (Previously presented) An immunogenic composition comprising a mutant VSV having the mutation  $\Delta M51$  in the matrix (M) protein and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said mutant VSV being capable of triggering the production of one or more cytokines in an infected cell.

16-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) A kit comprising one or more containers and a mutant VSV having the mutation  $\Delta M51$  in the gene encoding the matrix (M) protein.

21. (New) A method of inducing an immune response, the method comprising administering the vaccine vector of claim 11 to an animal.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the animal is a human.

23. (New) A method of inhibiting tumor cell growth in an animal, the method comprising treating the animal with the oncolytic agent of claim 13.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the animal is a human.

25. (New) A method of expressing a heterologous nucleic acid by infecting a host cell with the VSV of claim 10.